

We claim:

1. A handheld centrifuge device comprising:  
a centrifuge body adapted for handling by a user;  
a holder adapted for holding at least one sample to be centrifuged; and  
a tether having a first end associated with said centrifuge body and a second end associated with said holder.
2. The centrifuge device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a pull handle connected to said first end of said tether.
3. The centrifuge device of claim 2, wherein said tether is connected to said holder by a T-bar.
4. The centrifuge device of claim 2, wherein said centrifuge body defines a cavity on an open back end, and wherein said pull handle is configured to be disposable in said cavity.
5. The centrifuge device of claim 4, wherein said holder is configured to seal said open back end of said centrifuge body.
6. The centrifuge device of claim 2, wherein said tether has a first length from a front end of said centrifuge body to said holder, and wherein said pull handle is movable from said centrifuge body to reduce said first length of said tether.
7. The centrifuge device of claim 2, further comprising a brake disposed around an area of said second end of said tether.
8. The centrifuge device of claim 7, wherein said brake includes flexible plastic tubing.
9. The centrifuge device of claim 1, wherein said handle includes a spring mechanism attached to said tether.

10. The centrifuge device of claim 8, wherein said tether includes a two-foot length of waxed nylon string.

11. The centrifuge device of claim 1, wherein said open back end is threaded for receiving threads disposed on said holder.

12. The centrifuge device of claim 1, wherein said centrifuge body and said holder are machined from solid hexagonal aluminum rod.

13. The centrifuge device of claim 12, wherein said holder defines six evenly spaced apertures for receiving sample tubes disposed around its circumference.

14. A method of centrifuging a sample using the device according to claim 1, said method comprising:

- loading at least one sample to be centrifuged into the holder;
- connecting the holder to a tether associated with the centrifuge body; and
- non-electrically spinning the holder via the tether to generate a centrifugal force on the sample.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

- pulling the tether to shorten the length of the tether between the centrifuge body and the holder, and
- rotating the holder at an elevated rate.

16. A centrifuge device comprising:

- a centrifuge body having an open back end, a conical front end, a hand portion, and defining a passageway therethrough;
- a tether extending through said passageway and having a first end extending away from said conical front end and a second end extending into said open back end;
- a pull handle sized to fit in said open back end, said pull handle being attached to said second end of said tether; and
- a holder having at least two apertures for receiving sample tubes to be centrifuged, said holder being connectable to said first end of said tether.

17. The centrifuge device according to claim 16, wherein said holder is connectable to said open back end of said centrifuge body.

18. The centrifuge device according to claim 16, wherein said pull handle includes a spring mechanism.

19. A handheld centrifuge device comprising:  
a centrifuge body adapted for handling by a user;  
a sling adapted for holding a sample to be centrifuged; and  
a tether attached to said sling and in communication with said centrifuge body.

20. The centrifuge device according to claim 19, wherein said sling includes  
a handle attached to said tether, and  
a conduit connected to said handle, said conduit having a passageway passing therethrough, the passageway shaped to nest a specimen container.

21. The centrifuge device according to claim 19, further comprising a spring mechanism attached to said tether.

22. A centrifuge device comprising:  
means for holding at least one specimen,  
means for increasing centrifugal force on the at least one specimen, and  
means for providing a rotation axis.